

Rationale for the Kindergarten Program

One of the most vital issues in the educational world is the instruction of young children. The current emphasis upon early childhood education represents a logical response to the urgent needs within our society today.

Educational research indicates that the early years are the most crucial for learning and that the environment of these years permanently affects the child's total development and personality. Therefore, any effective educational program begins with the very young child - in the family and, then, the school.

Philosophy and Goals of St. Jude Kindergarten

St. Jude Kindergarten will strive to:

1. Provide a learning environment that will enable children to develop basic skills and concepts that will offer them opportunities for understanding and practicing the Catholic faith.
2. Help children to build a positive self-concept by experiencing success, encouragement, and reinforcement.
3. Provide opportunities for developing greater responsibility in caring for self and others, making choices, participating actively in their learning, and accepting consequences.
4. Guide students in the development of their natural talents according to their own capabilities.
5. Provide opportunities for students to share their God-given talents and gifts. Thus, they begin a habit of contributing in a positive manner to other people's needs.
6. Guide and facilitate students participating in liturgical celebration thus nourishing their daily lives both now and later as adults.
7. Aid parents in the task of preparing their children for growing into mature Christian adults.

Curriculum

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| Religion Relationships | Second Step Program – Developing |
| Arts, Phonics, and Verbal | Personal Relationships |
| Communication Skills | Learning Centers |
| Writing Skills and Handwriting | Motor Development |
| Math Readiness | Music |
| Science | Art |
| Health and Safety | Physical Education |
| Social Studies | Computer |
| Reading Stations | Guided Playtime |

Tuition

Kindergarten tuition will be collected through the school's FACTS program. You will receive more information about this program with your registration papers.

Kindergarten Schedule

The Kindergarten will follow the same schedule as St. Jude Elementary School for the regular school schedule as well as for emergency closing. Emergency closing information is given out sometime after the beginning of

the school year. Please check newsletters and the weekly teacher update. The following is the Kindergarten two hour delay schedule: AM Kindergarten 10:00AM to 12:10PM; PM Kindergarten 12:40PM to 2:50PM.

Arrival and Dismissal Times

Full day kindergarten will be in session from 8:00AM – 2:50PM. Morning kindergarten will be in session from 8:00AM – 11:00AM, and afternoon from 11:50AM – 2:50PM.

Transportation

Full day and AM Kindergarten parents may enter the north gate, drive around the gym and the east side of the building to the south door facing the St. Jude Youth Center to drop their children off at 7:55AM. To pick up AM kindergartners at 11:00AM, families may use the entrance near the Parish Center on Prague Road and then proceed to the same door as above. PM Kindergarten parents may use the entrance near the Parish Center on Prague Road and then proceed to the same door as above at 11:50AM to drop off their children. Full Day without older siblings at St. Jude and PM Kindergarten pick up is at 2:50PM following the same procedure as drop off. Children should remain in their cars until a signal is given by the teacher, at which time the cars nearest the door should let out their children. After these cars have deposited the children, they will drive on and the next cars in line will move forward to do the same. The same procedure will be used for the Full day and PM dismissal. In a very short time, we will all be used to this procedure; so let's be patient with each other.

Absence

If a child has any symptoms of illness, please keep him/her at home. The school has no facilities for sick children. Please call the school attendance number or the office to report an absence by 9:00AM, or within one hour of school start time. A child must be symptom free without medication for 24 hours prior to the return to school. A written note should be sent when the child returns to school.

Vaccination and Immunization

A complete and updated record of the child's immunizations and vaccinations must be presented at registration.

Dress

The Kindergarten children will use the same uniform code observed by the grade school. A copy of this uniform code will be issued to you at registration and again when families pick up their school packets in August before school begins. Navy blue shorts may be worn from the first day of school until October 1st and again from May 1st until the end of the school year.

Supplies

Most school supplies will be purchased from the supply fee collected at registration and need not be sent from home.

Sending Money

Whenever sending money to school, please use a sealed envelope marked with the child's name, room number, and an indication of the purpose for which it is being sent.

School Communications

Please read all notices, letters, Homework Watchers, and newsletters carefully since this is the principle means of communication between home and school.

Kindergarten Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are important to your child's well-being and success. Individual conferences will be scheduled at the end of the first report period. However, if you should have questions or concerns at any time please send a note, e-mail, or call the school office and leave a message and your teacher will contact you as soon as possible.

Sharing Time – Our version of Show and Tell

Your children will be encouraged to share ideas and experiences related to our Kindergarten themes. A schedule of regular sharing themes will be given in the teacher's weekly newsletter.

Birthdays

Since birthdays are special celebration times, we will share them in the classroom. If you wish to send in a small birthday treat, such as a mini cupcake, cookies, or treat bag, you are welcome to do so but it is not necessary.

Kindergarten Discipline

Discipline in the classroom will be aimed at helping each child to develop habits of safety, consideration, respect, and courtesy in dealing with other individuals and with the class as a whole. A few basic rules will be discussed and established to make our classroom run smoothly.

What A Child Should Bring

Back Pack – bring everyday and large enough to fit a regular size folder.

Paint Shirt – 1 or 2 sizes larger than child (an old adult T-shirt is perfect) with the child's name in marker on the front.

One standard-size box of Kleenex and one roll of paper towels to be collected and used by the class throughout the school year.

How Parents Can Help

1. Be sure your child gets enough sleep – 10 hours recommended.
2. Start your child's day with a nutritious breakfast.
3. Help your child develop good health and safety practices around the home.
4. Give opportunities for your child to play with other children.

5. Teach your child how to snap, button, and zipper coats and tie his/her shoes.
6. Teach your child his/her name, address, phone number, birthday, and to print his/her first name with the first letter capitalized and remaining letters lowercase.
7. Dress your child appropriately for all seasons as we try to go to church weekly.
8. Encourage your child to follow simple rules of courtesy and good manners.
9. Keep your child in school regularly, except when ill.

What Can You Do To Help Your Child Succeed In Kindergarten?

1. Motivate your child to take responsibility at home. Give them simple tasks to complete. Practice tasks that use sequencing skills (i.e. go upstairs, brush your teeth, and put on your pajamas).
2. Be constantly encouraging and express interest in what your child does in school. Try to get beyond..."We just played."
3. Review schoolwork, projects, and papers with your child as a means of sharing his/her experiences and reinforcing what he/she has learned.
4. Keep your teacher informed of any confusing or negative attitudes or situations which may be disturbing your child.
5. Keep in touch with your child's teacher through weekly newsletters, school newsletters, communication folders, and Homework Watcher.